



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **TEACHER PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGE**

*Students: He was viewing graphic images on classroom computer*

BOSTON-- Former Holden, Maine, elementary school teacher Gerald Bailey, who was arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agents in November, pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography Thursday in the U.S. District Court in Bangor.

Bailey was charged Nov. 22 with one count of possessing child pornography.

The case began in January 2002 when two students at the Holbrook Elementary School in Holden reported to the school principal that they had seen Bailey looking at pornographic images on a school computer in a classroom.

A forensic examination of the computer proved that Bailey had accessed numerous child pornography Web sites from the computer at the school. On June 21, 2002, Bailey admitted he had been downloading pornographic images of the children on the school computer.

ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Robin Avers said the investigation that resulted in Bailey's arrest, and today's plea demonstrates ICE's commitment to halting the exploitation of children.

Bailey faces a possible sentence of up to five years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000, or both, and supervised release of up to three years. He may also be required to register as a child sexual predator for the rest of his life.

Bailey's arrest falls within the scope of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,877 individuals, including 100 in Massachusetts.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com).

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.*